

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1893

USUN NEW YORK 367

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 10960

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CO UN

SUBJ: REPRESENTATIONS WITH COLOMBIAN AMBASSADORS TO US AND UN

1. ALTHOUGH FINAL DECISIONS ON GOC POLICIES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE USUALLY TAKEN HERE, AT HIGHEST LEVELS, THE ASSIGNMENT OF UNUSUALLY INFLUENTIAL COLOMBIANS AS UN PERMREP AND AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON PROVIDES EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS FOR COLOMBIAN SUPPORT ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE US IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON ALSO.

2. GERMAN ZEA HERNANDEZ, UN PERMREP, IS A FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER (1966-68), INFLUENTIAL LIBERAL PARTY LEADER AND POLITICAL ALLY OF FONMIN LIEVANO. HE HAS BEEN VERY FRIENDLY TO THE US. WE HAVE GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM FONOFF CONTACTS THAT DUE TO THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS HE IS FREQUENTLY GIVEN CONSIDERABLE LEEWAY BY THE FONOFF AND OFTEN HAS SIGNIFICANT INPUT INTO FONOFF DECISIONS ON MATTERS BEFORE THE UN.

3. JULIO CESAR TURBAY AYALA, AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND CONCURRENTLY DESIGNADO (VICE PRESIDENT), IS ONE OF COLOMBIA'S MOST POWERFUL POLITICAL LEADERS. HE IS A LEADING CONTENDER FOR THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENCY IN THE 1978 ELECTIONS AND HEAD OF ONE OF THE STRONGEST LIBERAL PARTY

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FACTIONS, WITH WHICH BOTH LIEVANO AND ZEA ARE IDENTIFIED.

TURBAY IS ALSO FRIENDLY TO THE US. HE HAS A REPUTATION

IN LOCAL POLITICAL CIRCLES OF TENDING TO AGREE, ON
POLICY QUESTIONS, WITH THE LAST MAN TO REACH HIM.

4. WHILE THE MAIN EFFORT TO INFLUENCE GOC GOREIFN POLICY
DECISIONS, INCLUDING UN MATTERS, SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE
MADE BY EMBASSY, WE BELIEVE THAT TIMELY EFFORTS BY USUN
AND DEPARTMENT WITH ZEA AND TURBAY ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE
TO US COULD BE PARTICULARLY PRODUCTIVE.
VAKY

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